

the condition of education 2006



INDICATOR 10

Trends in Graduate/ First-Professional Enrollments

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2006*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2006*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.sap?pubid=2006071>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Graduate and Professional Education

Trends in Graduate/First-Professional Enrollments

Enrollment in graduate and first-professional programs increased from 1976 to 2004. Female enrollment experienced a larger increase than male enrollment during this time for both types of programs.

Since 1976, graduate and first-professional enrollments in degree-granting institutions have increased, and the percentage distributions of these enrollments by sex, race/ethnicity, and enrollment status have changed considerably.

Between 1976 and 2004, enrollment in graduate programs increased 62 percent (from 1.3 to 2.2 million), while enrollment in first-professional programs increased 37 percent (from 244,000 to 335,000). Enrollments in both graduate and first-professional programs are projected to continue increasing, with graduate enrollment expected to reach 2.6 million and first-professional enrollment to reach 437,000 by 2015 (see supplemental table 10-1).

Enrollment trends differ by sex in graduate and first-professional programs. In 1976, more men than women attended both programs. Since then, female enrollment in graduate programs has increased 106 percent (from 619,000 to 1.3 million), while male enrollment has increased 23 percent (from 714,000 to 879,000). Females represented 46 percent of total graduate enrollment in 1976, some 50 percent in 1984, and 59 percent in 2004. Between 1976 and 2004, female enrollment in first-professional programs increased 205

percent (from 54,000 to 166,000), while male enrollment decreased 11 percent (from 190,000 to 168,000). In 1976, females represented 22 percent of total first-professional enrollment, compared with 50 percent in 2004.

Minorities experienced gains in enrollment between 1976 and 2004. Minority enrollment in graduate programs increased 254 percent (from 134,000 to 475,000), while White enrollment increased 27 percent (from 1.1 to 1.4 million). Enrollments among Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders have seen the greatest growth. In 1976, minorities represented 10 percent of total graduate enrollment, compared with 22 percent in 2004 (see supplemental table 10-2). Minority enrollment in first-professional programs grew by 319 percent (from 21,000 to 88,000), compared with an 8 percent growth in White enrollment (from 220,000 to 238,000).

Since 1976, the majority of graduate students have been enrolled part time. In 1976, some 65 percent were part time, about half (53 percent) were part time in 2004, and 49 percent are projected to be part time in 2015. Since 1976, most first-professional students have been enrolled full time.

¹ Black includes African American, Hispanic includes Latino, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and American Indian includes Alaska Native. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified.

NOTE: Because of underreporting and nonreporting of racial/ethnic data, some figures are slightly lower than corresponding data in other published tables. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. See glossary for definitions of minority and first-professional degree.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). (forthcoming). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030), tables 187, 188, and 206. Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities" survey, 1976, and Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Fall Enrollment Survey," Spring 2005.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 1, 3, 9
Supplemental Tables 10-1,
10-2

GRADUATE/FIRST-PROFESSIONAL ENROLLMENT: Graduate and first-professional enrollment in degree-granting institutions in 1976 and 2004 and percentage increase between the two years, by sex, race/ethnicity, and attendance status

	[Enrollment in thousands]					
	Graduate enrollment			First-professional enrollment		
	1976	2004	Percent change	1976	2004	Percent change
Total	1,333	2,157	61.8	244	335	36.9
Sex						
Male	714	879	23.1	190	168	-11.3
Female	619	1,278	106.5	54	166	204.9
Race/ethnicity¹						
White	1,116	1,413	26.7	220	238	8.3
Total minority	134	475	253.5	21	88	318.6
Black	78	220	180.7	11	26	131.3
Hispanic	26	126	377.3	5	17	273.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	25	116	372.8	4	43	953.4
American Indian	5	13	161.9	1	2	90.8
Nonresident alien	72	268	270.3	3	8	168.1
Attendance status						
Full-time	463	1,024	121.2	220	302	37.0
Part-time	870	1,133	30.2	24	33	36.5

Trends in Graduate/First-Professional Enrollments

Table 10-1. Total graduate and first-professional enrollment in degree-granting institutions, by sex and attendance status, with projections: 1976–2015

[In thousands]											
Fall of year	Total enrollment	Graduate					First-professional				
		Total	Male	Female	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Male	Female	Full-time	Part-time
1976	1,577	1,333	714	619	463	870	244	190	54	220	24
1977	1,570	1,319	700	617	473	845	251	191	60	226	25
1978	1,569	1,312	682	630	468	844	257	192	65	233	24
1979	1,572	1,309	669	640	476	833	263	193	70	239	24
1980	1,620	1,343	675	670	485	860	278	199	78	251	26
1981	1,617	1,343	674	669	484	859	275	193	82	248	26
1982	1,601	1,322	670	653	485	838	278	191	87	252	26
1983	1,619	1,340	677	663	497	843	279	188	90	250	29
1984	1,624	1,345	672	673	501	844	279	185	94	250	29
1985	1,650	1,376	677	700	509	867	274	180	94	247	28
1986	1,706	1,435	693	742	522	913	270	174	97	246	25
1987	1,720	1,452	693	759	527	925	268	170	98	242	27
1988	1,739	1,472	697	774	553	919	267	167	100	241	26
1989	1,796	1,522	710	811	572	949	274	169	106	248	27
1990	1,860	1,586	737	849	599	987	273	167	107	246	28
1991	1,920	1,639	761	878	642	997	281	170	111	252	29
1992	1,950	1,669	772	896	666	1,003	281	169	112	252	29
1993	1,981	1,688	771	917	688	1,000	292	173	120	260	33
1994	2,016	1,721	776	946	706	1,016	295	174	121	263	31
1995	2,030	1,732	768	965	717	1,015	298	174	124	266	31
1996	2,041	1,742	759	983	737	1,005	298	173	126	267	31
1997	2,052	1,753	758	996	752	1,001	298	170	129	267	31
1998	2,070	1,768	754	1,013	754	1,014	302	169	134	271	31
1999	2,110	1,807	766	1,041	781	1,026	303	165	138	271	33
2000	2,157	1,850	780	1,071	813	1,037	307	164	143	274	33
2001	2,212	1,904	796	1,108	843	1,061	309	161	148	277	32
2002	2,355	2,036	847	1,189	926	1,109	319	163	156	286	33
2003	2,427	2,098	865	1,233	981	1,117	329	166	163	296	33
2004	2,491	2,157	879	1,278	1,024	1,133	335	168	166	302	33
Projected ¹											
2005	2,514	2,165	873	1,292	1,026	1,139	349	174	175	315	34
2006	2,542	2,188	874	1,313	1,045	1,143	355	175	179	321	34
2007	2,576	2,215	883	1,332	1,067	1,148	361	178	183	327	34
2008	2,607	2,239	891	1,348	1,087	1,153	367	180	187	333	34
2009	2,635	2,262	898	1,364	1,105	1,157	373	182	191	339	34
2010	2,673	2,293	907	1,385	1,129	1,164	380	184	196	346	34
2011	2,722	2,333	920	1,413	1,158	1,176	389	188	201	354	35
2012	2,790	2,389	937	1,452	1,197	1,193	401	192	209	366	35
2013	2,868	2,453	955	1,498	1,239	1,214	414	196	218	378	36
2014	2,942	2,515	972	1,543	1,279	1,236	426	199	227	390	36
2015	3,008	2,571	986	1,585	1,315	1,256	437	202	235	400	37

¹ Projections based on reported data through 2004 and middle alternative assumptions concerning the economy. See NCES 2006-084 for more information on projections.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Data for 1999 were imputed using alternative procedures. See NCES 2006-030, Guide to Sources, for more information. See the glossary for a definition of first-professional degree.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). (forthcoming). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030), tables 187 and 188 and Hussar, W. (forthcoming). *Projections of Education Statistics to 2015* (NCES 2006-084), tables 20 and 21. Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities" surveys, 1976 through 1985, and 1986 through 2005 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Fall Enrollment Survey," 1987 through 1999 and Spring 2001 through Spring 2005.

Trends in Graduate/First-Professional Enrollments

Table 10-2. Total graduate and first-professional enrollment and percentage distribution of students in degree-granting institutions, by level of student and race/ethnicity: Selected years, 1976–2004

Level of student and race/ethnicity ¹	1976	1980	1990	1995	2000	2004
Enrollment (in thousands)						
Graduate						
Total	1,323	1,341	1,586	1,732	1,850	2,157
White	1,116	1,105	1,228	1,282	1,259	1,413
Total minority	134	144	190	271	359	475
Black	78	75	84	119	158	220
Hispanic	26	32	47	68	95	126
Asian/Pacific Islander	25	32	53	76	96	116
American Indian	5	5	6	8	10	13
Nonresident alien	72	92	167	179	232	268
First-professional						
Total	244	277	273	298	307	335
White	220	248	221	223	220	238
Total minority	21	26	47	67	78	88
Black	11	13	16	21	24	26
Hispanic	5	7	11	14	15	17
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	6	19	30	37	43
American Indian	1	1	1	2	2	2
Nonresident alien	3	3	5	7	8	8
Percentage distribution						
Graduate						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	84.4	82.4	77.4	74.0	68.0	65.5
Total minority	10.2	10.7	12.0	15.6	19.4	22.0
Black	5.9	5.6	5.3	6.8	8.5	10.2
Hispanic	2.0	2.4	3.0	3.9	5.2	5.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.9	2.4	3.4	4.4	5.2	5.4
American Indian	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6
Nonresident alien	5.5	6.9	10.5	10.4	12.6	12.4
First-professional						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	90.1	89.5	81.0	75.0	71.8	71.2
Total minority	8.6	9.5	17.0	22.5	25.5	26.3
Black	4.6	4.6	5.8	7.2	7.7	7.7
Hispanic	1.9	2.4	3.9	4.6	5.0	5.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	2.2	6.8	9.9	12.0	12.8
American Indian	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.7
Nonresident alien	1.3	1.0	2.0	2.5	2.7	2.5

¹ Black includes African American, Hispanic includes Latino, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and American Indian includes Alaska Native. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified.

NOTE: Because of underreporting and nonreporting of racial/ethnic data, some figures are slightly lower than corresponding data in other published tables. See the glossary for definitions of minority and first-professional degree. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). (forthcoming). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030), tables 206 and NCES. (2003). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2002* (NCES 2003-060), table 207. Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities" surveys, 1976 and 1980, and Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Fall Enrollment Survey," 1990 and 1995 and Spring 2001 and 2005.